

From JMB / SXM Weekly News 11/18/19: 737 Max; Southwest Air; jetBlue; Belair; Simpson Bay Resort; Westin; Orient Beach; Serafina; Taste Factory; French Side Trial; Anguilla Extradition; Thanksgiving [45 Articles]

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**Vol. 2, #1224 --- Monday, November 18, 2019**  
**News From St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM**



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## **Member News**

### St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News

*St. Maarten & St. Martin's Most Relied-Upon Source  
of Tourist-Oriented News & Information*

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From: [www.jmbcommunications.com](http://www.jmbcommunications.com)

Weekly News is part of JMB's St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com)

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**Important Note:**

**This is Jeff Berger's / JMB Communications' St. Maarten & St. Martin / SXM Weekly News, published every Monday (Tuesdays during most holiday weeks). You are receiving St. Maarten & St. Martin "SXM" Weekly News because you subscribed to it and/or are a JMB Website Supporters member.**

**Please do stay with us for all the latest tourist-oriented news from St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM all year long. Now read by more than 334,000 people around the world...**

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Protect your vacation and business travel with SkyMed Emergency Medical Evacuation Membership



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**This narrow format is easily readable on all mobile devices.** Scroll down for this week's news.

You can also download PDFs of recent editions here:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

On that page, the link beginning with the highest number is the most recent edition.

**Get Your Own Free Weekly Copy of SXM Weekly News:**

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

Enter your email address at the top and click SUBMIT. When you receive the confirming email, click the confirming link and you're in

**TOP STORIES IN THIS ISSUE:**

Scroll Down for Full Table of Contents; this edition features many new stories about your favorite island:

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- **Make Thanksgiving Reservations NOW**

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 -- **Traveling Anywhere January 18 or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion on Pre-Existing Conditions Coverage by Buying Now**  
 #####

#####  
 ---- **\*\*\*\*\*Customer Stories\*\*\*\*\***  
**Cover Yourself With Emergency Medical Evacuation Protection from SkyMed**  
 #####

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**45 News Stories This Week**

**Scroll down for our complete Table of Contents**

**Timeshare Rental and Sale of the Week**

Each week JMB randomly picks timeshare condominiums for rent and for sale in SXM from the huge selection at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) and features them here.

To rent out or sell timeshares you own in SXM or anywhere else worldwide, for no ad charge or commission, join JMB Website Supporters. Visit [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) for info. Membership now delivers a growing list of about 300 St. Maarten and St. Martin-focused travel benefits -- and your membership subscription helps keep these weekly SXM newsletters coming.

**SXM Timeshare Rental of The Week:**

Not in archives.

**SXM Timeshare Sale of The Week:**

Not in archives.

**Non-St. Maarten Timeshare Rentals:**

See them all at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml)

## Villa Rentals Now Offered On Our Site Too:

*St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)*

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/mysxm>

### "Like" Our Facebook St. Maarten Timesharing Group

<https://www.facebook.com/StMaartenTimesharing/>

### Search the SXM Weekly News Archives:

Current Archives (Since 4/2014) in PDF Format:

[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free\\_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/free_newsletters/sxmweeklynews.shtml)

Archives prior to April 12 2014 (old format):

<http://everythingxsm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?flavor=archive;list=sxmweeklynews>

### Check Out Our Linked-In "St. Maarten and St. Martin Travelers" Group (Free; Timeshare Focus):

[www.linkedin.com](http://www.linkedin.com)

### Get a growing group of about 300 SXM-focused island discounts and other SXM-related benefits through JMB Website Supporters membership:

[http://www.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://www.everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

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**Properties for Sale (NEW): [Click to access our recommended real estate agents](#)**

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A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads:** Links are on the Secret Website (see a, above.)

**Section Six: Where To Find Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers)  
(Revised 8/2017)**

**How To Get a GROWING LIST of 300+ Money-Saving St. Maarten- and St. Martin-Focused Travel Benefits**

Visit <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> , the \*secret\* site for JMB Website Supporters members only, for low fares to SXM from cities across the USA, Canada, and Western Europe, plus a growing list of 300+ additional major travel benefits.

**Not a member yet? See [http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) . Cost: \$59 for**

**one year, or \$99 total for three full years. Other durations available. Join us today...**

\*\*\*\*\*  
**All JMB Newsletters Read \*From JMB\***  
\*\*\*\*\*

This newsletter and mail from JMB Website Supporters to members read \*From JMB\* in the subject area so you won't misinterpret them as spam.

## **THIS WEEK'S STORIES:**

Stories are numbered; scroll down for stories of interest.

### **SECTION 1: Getting There: Flights, Airlines, Airports, Cruises, & Weather**

## **1. Are Regular Southwest 737s Safe To Fly?**

As if Southwest Airlines wasn't having enough trouble dealing with the grounding of its largest-in-the-world fleet of 737 Max aircraft, now the airline is in trouble with the FAA for other Boeing 737 issues. It seems, according to the FAA, that Southwest acquired some used 737 aircraft from overseas carriers, had them repainted, updated the interiors, and *put them in service without first ensuring that any previous mechanical issues with those aircraft had been dealt with according to US standards.*

According to the FAA, Southwest didn't do that. In fact, the FAA says, Southwest had not even completed translating foreign language maintenance records from overseas carriers before it had repainted, completed cabin refreshes, and put the planes into service in the US — a rather lackadaisical approach to aircraft maintenance. don't you think?

Here is the [full story](#) from the *Washington Post*, no less.

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## **2. Boeing Wants 737 MAX OK'd To Fly in December**

Boeing's PR machine is working overtime now building expectations that its 737 Max aircraft could be back in the skies as early as next month. The airplane manufacturer is implying to anyone who will listen that approval will be pretty much a slamdunk — though the reality is much different. The FAA does not want to compound past mistakes and wants to make sure that the 737 Max flight controls and all its other systems operate perfectly in all circumstances — a tall order after two crashes killed 346 people earlier this year. Other countries must also certify that the airliner is fit to fly.

Boeing also needs to convince skittish airlines that spent billions of dollars on the airplanes that Boeing actually knows what it is doing with the Max and has done everything right -- finally. And it needs to convince pilots, flight crew, and passengers that it hasn't screwed anything else up — another tall order.

Most airlines have now pushed the 737 Max out of their schedules through the end of March, 2020. Some observers are saying that the world's airlines will not thoroughly absorb all recertified 737 Max aircraft into their full schedules for up to a full year.

All of this underscores the fact that Boeing's current gambit and glibness at saying the Boeing 737 Max airliner may well be coming back quickly is a major corporate dance — and Boeing has proved itself remarkably inapt at dancing in the past year.

We'll keep you posted, as we have since before the planes were grounded.

Why did we post this in *SXM Weekly News*? Two reasons - multiple airlines serving SXM had used the Max, and Southwest does plan to introduce service to SXM.

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## **3. Some Flight Attendants, Pilots Leery of Flying 737 MAX After OK**

Some airline pilots have told us that they have great faith that once the 737 Max aircraft has been recertified for flight by the FAA, it may well be the safest airplane in the sky. But others aren't so sure. And neither are many flight attendants.

All have good reason to be reluctant to fly the 737 Max which, after all, was widely billed as being one of the most advanced airliners in the sky when Boeing rolled it out after its initial approval. It was "advanced" but it was also fatally flawed.

Now, both some flight attendants and pilots at some airlines have expressed great reservations about readily flying the aircraft again once it has been approved.

If they are this skeptical this late in the game, one wonders how many nearly empty 737 Max airliners may be flying once the aircraft is approved to reenter service — assuming that happens.

Passengers will be very reluctant, too.

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## 4. jetBlue Revamps Passenger Options

JetBlue continues to broaden the options it offers to its passengers even as it continues to modernize, expand, and enhance its fleet of aircraft.

Here is the [latest from JetBlue](#).

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## 5. Check-In Three Hours Ahead

We have always urged passengers leaving SXM to check in a full three hours ahead of their departure time, especially on weekends and around holidays, the busiest times.

Some people in the past have attempted to check their bags earlier than this and in some cases they were allowed to do so. That option, from what we can tell, is no longer available: Princess Juliana SXM Airport seems to have standardized the industrywide practice of allowing bags to be checked in not more than three hours ahead of flight time.

Because the airport is not fully back to normal, getting there three hours ahead is also a wise practice; it's far more preferable to be at the gate an hour early than two minutes late for your flight....

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## 6. Severe Cold Delays Flights

Severe early-season cold and snow storms caused thousands of delays and cancellations at airports across the US last week, with mild effects in SXM.

Vigorous fronts exiting the US East Coast kicked up swells impacting the coastal US as well as both the greater and lesser Antilles, which is not unusual during winter.

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## 7. Is SXM Airport Funding Finally In Sight?

It's only a hunch on our part, but we really do believe that a resolution of the delay in approving funding for final airport reconstruction is about to happen. Despite the fact that a new election of a new Dutch side government is still coming, action can be taken before that happens to finalize critically needed funding. Everyone on the island fully realizes the importance of doing this quickly now with high season almost here, and the politicization of funding options may well have run its course.

Bondholders need to get this in gear *now*.

Keep your fingers crossed. We'll keep you posted on what happens and what the schedule will be once things start moving.

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## 8. Tropics Quiet; Hurricane Season's End Is Two Weeks Away

The tropics remain generally quiet now, as we move into the last couple of weeks of the busy 2019 hurricane season.

Forecasters said Sunday morning that a small system may develop well northeast of the lesser Antilles and be pulled away by a passing cold front. Bottom line, no significant impact on any land area.

November 30 is the last day of the season. Our Weather Center will continue to show you satellite images, radar loops, and more, even after the season ends. You can access it on our main site, [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com).

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## 9. See Current SXM Weather / Tracking Serious Weather

You'll find detailed observations and forecasts by visiting our main SXM website, [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com), and clicking either of the weather observations at the top of the page.

The four sources of current weather info, beyond the two above, are:

- 1) [Crown Weather Services](#) whose very inexpensive subscription service is, we feel, the best in the business.
- 2) Our "Weather" page at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) -- it has current satellite images and radar loops and now all the latest NHC weather forecasts, outlooks, and advisories as well. There are now also active weather widgets on the site's home page.
- 3) Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which publishes the latest advisories, watches, and warnings when SXM is threatened by any storms.
- 4) On or off the island, listen to Island 92 -- 91.9FM or see [www.island92.com](http://www.island92.com). They report island warnings at once and know exactly what's going on. You can listen on the web anytime through live streaming.
- 5) For a quick look at weather radar exactly where you are or where you're going, try the My Radar phone app or My Radar for Windows -- excellent programs.

Get a quick, current satellite look at the Atlantic basin anytime: <http://www.goes.noaa.gov/GIFS/ATWV.JPG> .

N. B.: *Again...Never rely on any website if you're in the path of a storm; always heed warnings from local authorities.*

### **Download your own NHC Hurricane Chart:**

Years ago, before we were all saturated with weather information from cable TV to local (redundant and repetitive) news and forecasts plus weather updates and bulletins on our smart phones, gas stations and television stations offered printed hurricane tracking charts so people at home could try to figure out for themselves whether they were about to get slammed by the latest hurricane.

We haven't seen hurricane tracking chart handouts for years, but if you want one they are easy to get.

The exact charts used by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) are available for download from the NHC [here](#). Select "Atlantic" and you're good to go. You can print out the chart and use it repeatedly, or simply print a bunch of them and use one for each storm that may approach an area of interest -- like, SXM. Bear in mind that this hurricane season may well be frontloaded -- so you might want to print a few of these now and *not* save doing that for later.

More stories are below.



## **Changing Your Email Address?**

***Now You Can Unsubscribe Your Old Email  
and Sign Up Your New One  
for your SXM Weekly News subscription  
Quickly and Easily  
at our Site: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com)***

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## **10. Guaranteed Big-Time Savings on Hotels, Cruises, Car Rentals**

We're now giving JMB Website Supporters members and *SXM Weekly News* readers access to a private, "members only" travel wholesale club that offers incredible prices not only on airfares but on travel reservations and packages worldwide.

**SkyMed Travel** offers exceptional pricing on everything and almost invariably beats everyone else's pricing. We have found their pricing excellent across the board and their 115% low rate guarantee on hotels and car rentals is real news.

**Normally, SkyMed Travel charges \$99 to join plus \$99 annual renewals. But for our JMB Website Supporters members and now for Weekly News readers, the cost to join is zero as will be the cost for renewals. Join the Club by going to <https://www.skymedtravel.com/register>, sign up, and provide the requested information. Complete the first sign up item (SkyMed Membership Number or Representative ID) by entering the code 391330 — doing that ensures that you pay nothing for your SkyMed Travel Club membership. No code, no free entry to the club's phenomenal pricing. If you are a SkyMed Member, however, enter your SkyMed Membership Number there to get the absolute greatest possible discounts.**

You won't be disappointed.

**Not a SkyMed member?** Learn more about it at [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), then call us with questions or to sign up. Call 508-747-8281 any weekday. Thanks...

### ***SECTION 2: Accommodations: Hotels, Resorts, Timeshares, Villas Etc.***

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## **11. At Belair & Simpson Bay Resort, Come Say Hello**

At Belair Beach Hotel's Monday evening barbecue and at Tuesday evening's meet and greet at Simpson Bay Resort, a surprise mystery guest will return — someone who JMB Website Supporters members and readers of this newsletter and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) will likely recognize. Come say hello to him at both events AND at SBR's Sunday morning timeshare owner orientation every week.

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## **12. Westin St. Maarten Situation Still a Mystery**

Westin St. Maarten owner Columbia Sussex, a major developer of resort hotels and casinos, is staying mum about the future of the Westin St. Maarten, closed since hurricane Irma blasted it more than two years ago.

Next door, its Dawn Beach Club has been almost completely renovated and is home to increasing numbers of guests. Some of them have told us that work continues in the Westin and on the roof of the Westin. Some are even saying that that resort could reopen during the first half of next year.

Marriott owns Westin and Marriott is a more pervasive brand than Westin, but that may not be the direction in which rebranding goes — if there is rebranding. In fact, some people are saying that the property could well go upscale. Indeed, the island generally seems headed to more upscale accommodations in the next few years, as we have reported here in *SXM Weekly News*. Two examples are the **Secrets Resort** opening early next year in Anse Marcel, the as yet to start construction **Planet Hollywood** planned for Great Bay beach, and the Westin -- which some people are predicting could wind up a Ritz.

We will keep an eye on this and keep you posted. **We need your support -- please see story #20.**

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## 13. A Very Unique Dec-Jan Rental Opportunity at Belair...

We wanted to make you aware of the very unexpected availability of a large chunk of Winter weeks during December and January that are now available at Belair Beach Hotel.

Here are the details:

Special opportunity December 2019 and January 2020 Two Bedroom, Two Bathroom, Second Floor, Belair Beach Hotel unit available for December 2019 and January 2020. This is the first time this unit has been available during this timeframe in many years. Once in a lifetime opportunity. Weekly Rate: \$1710, plus any applicable taxes; Special Monthly Rates available upon request. Email: [info@island92.com](mailto:info@island92.com) to inquire.

Want to get away with family or friends for an extended vacation? This is your chance to do exactly that.

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## 14. Want to Rent Out Or Sell Timeshare Units You Own?

If you own timeshare weeks that you would like to rent out or sell on our main everythingSXM.com website, you can do it once you become a member of our JMB Website Supporters island discount program. For all the details, go to our main site, [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) and click on timeshare rentals in the navigation bar. You'll find the details about posting there. For information about joining JMB Website Supporters, click the page curl on all pages of [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com). As a member, you will have access to a growing pallet of about 300 discounts and other benefits including the ability to post up to 10 ads per year in our rental pages at [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com).

The ability to post timeshare rentals on our site is limited to JMB Website Supporters members only, and is not available to any others at any price.

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## 15. Original SXM Relocation Seminar Now Available Online

Just before Thanksgiving 2018, working with Arun Jagtiani of Island Real Estate Team, we put together and conducted an SXM Relocation Seminar for dozens of attentive attendees at Emilio's Restaurant at the Emilio Wilson estate near Philipsburg.

Many of you have asked whether it would be possible for you to see video we made of our relocation seminar.

Although we do intend to put on future relocation seminars, the video of our November '18 seminar is now available online to anyone interested in buying on SXM, whether for a vacation home, retirement home, income property, or anything else. Lots of outstanding info was communicated during this excellent seminar, and another is now in the early planning stages.

See the video [here](#).

For great help on all the relocation paperwork, contact Vivian Chamas at [Bright Path](#), a company that can help provide very deep and expeditious help in completing residency requirements for people buying a second home, income property, or a new business in SXM. They're located in the Puerta del Sol building opposite Avantika, Simpson Bay, Dutch side.

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## 16. Places to Stay: Many Available, Take Your Pick

With most timeshare resorts back online — Belair, Sea Palace, Divi, Atrium Resort, La Vista, Simpson Bay Resort, Port de Plaisance, and Oyster Bay Beach now open too -- timeshare owners continue to post units available for rent on our [timeshare rental site](#) on [everythingSXM.com](#) and on our new companion Villas for Rent page, also on [everythingxsm.com](#). Check them out.

Get your rental weeks now. Note: ads on those pages are from JMB Website Supporters members exclusively are very frequently updated.

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## 17. A Place Where SXM Timeshare Owners Can Talk

JMB Communications has long operated a St. Maarten timesharing site on Facebook. We have now combined that site with our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) since more timeshare owners from St. Maarten belong to the latter site than the former.

In the [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) lots of current information about timeshare resorts is being exchanged by timeshare owners. We welcome you to join that site and share your experiences with other timeshare owners.

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## 18. Rented/Sold Your Timeshare? Please Cancel Your Ad

Owners of timeshares from St. Maarten and the rest of the world who are members of our JMB Website Supporters Island Discount Program can post timeshare weeks they own for rent or for sale on our main SXM site, [everythingSXM.com](#), which has had over 6 million visits and continues to be enormously popular. *We do urge timeshare owners to let us know at once when their weeks have been rented or sold. That way, we can remove expired ads on a timely basis — usually weekly during high season.*

Members of JMB Website Supporters can post or cancel ads using our members-only secret website, [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](#). Your assigned username and password are required for secret site access. Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you don't recall your password, use the forgot password link in the orange login box below the masthead on every page of [everythingSXM.com](#) for site access.

Updates to our listings are done weekly during high season.

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### SECTION 3: JMB Member Discounts & Benefits

## 19. JMB Member Discounts / Benefits -- Updates Underway

Jeff returns to the island during November and will be working in November and December to further increase the already huge number of restaurants, jewelry stores, hotels, and other businesses offering discounts or other incentives to members of our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program.

As these additions are made, they will be reported here in *SXM Weekly News* and will also be noted in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#), which currently offers roughly 300 discounts and other benefits to its thousands of members.

**For more info on what you get with your JMB membership, [go here](#).**

**SECTION 4: Island News, Info, & Features**

**20. Black Friday / Cyber Monday / Holiday JMB Membership Sale Begins NOW**

Our biggest sale of the year for our JMB Website Supporters SXM Island Discount Program begins tonight, Monday night, November 18 at 9 PM Eastern time. Both new and renewal pricing will be the lowest of the year — available for the first time about two weeks ahead of Black Friday.

Make sure your new JMB membership or your renewal/reinstatement is in force well ahead of your next visit to the island: do it today. Sale pricing is shown below. Again, this is scheduled to go into effect Monday night, November 18, at 9 PM Eastern time though you may see it online a bit earlier.



**Black Friday / Cyber Monday / Holiday '19**

**JMB Membership Sale Now Underway:**

**Our Biggest Sale of the Year!**

**Get 300+ SXM Discounts  
& Many More Island Benefits  
& (P. S.) Exclusive First-in-Line Invitations  
to Our Famous Members-Only Island Parties...  
Get, Renew, or Reinstate YOUR JMB Membership  
Today:**

**New JMB memberships: 6 years, \$139 (our best offer); 3 yrs., \$89; 1 yr., \$44**  
[http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml)

**Renewal JMB memberships: 6 years, \$129 (best offer); 4 yrs., \$99; 3 yrs., \$79;  
1 yr., \$34 SALE PRICES NOW LIVE**  
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

**Reinstatement JMB memberships:  
6 years, \$129 (best offer); 4 yrs., \$99; 3 yrs., \$79; 1 yr., \$34  
SALE PRICES NOW LIVE**  
<http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/reinstate/index.shtml>

**21. Get SkyMed Now For All Upcoming Trips: Member Stories**

**On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach**, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery. A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

Mary Beth and her partner Don were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

**An MD from Florida who always visits SXM** was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed which arranged and paid for an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

**A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother** in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

**A woman from Virginia** shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

**Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay** when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

**A member of the clergy** fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases. SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works. That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. [You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.](#)

**Anything can happen anywhere: Do it today.** To learn more, visit [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), our new SkyMed site, going live shortly.. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters in this section.

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## 22. Significant Progress on Orient Beach "Carbets"

On Saturday morning, we photographed the "carbets" -- small shops just north of Club Orient on Orient beach, French side. They will become bars/restaurants and other types of shops. Construction on some of the buildings appears to be close to the point at which businesses could be moving in, though their actual opening date is still a number of weeks away.

We will keep an eye on this for you and let you know what happens. As always, our SXM pictures are being posted

in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#). To join the group, all you need to do is answer three very brief, simple questions that verify your interest in SXM. You can then invite your SXM tourist friends to join as well; the group currently totals about 24,000 people, up from 9500 during the summer of 2017, reflecting continuing huge interest in SXM. Do join and add your friends soon — the site contains lots of useful information on the island.

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## 23. At Taste Factory, Construction Is Underway

The building formerly occupied by the popular Taste Factory restaurant in Simpson Bay is seeing some construction activity. We don't know definitively if Taste Factory will be returning or whether there will be another tenant — we haven't heard directly. But we'll keep an eye on the construction for you and let you know what we find.

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## 24. At Former Serafina, Construction Starting

In Marigot, Boulevard de France is the main drag along the water and that whole area was severely flooded by hurricane Irma.

The famous Serafina bakery / restaurant on the waterfront was destroyed, and has since relocated to Marina Royale. A week ago, we noticed that the property where Serafina had stood had been marked off — and this past weekend, we noticed some apparent construction starting on the land formally occupied by Serafina.

We know of no plans by Serafina to return to this location, which had been a gold mine for the business. We'll watch what happens and let you know.

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## 25. About Construction Quality in SXM

The attitude of major businesses across SXM while construction has been underway has been to rebuild stronger and better, so new structures will be able to withstand more challenging future storms. Many blame climate change for Irma, still the most powerful tropical cyclone to ever appear in the Atlantic. It was the second most powerful tropical cyclone in world history, only 5 mph in strength below a 190 mile-per-hour monster in the Pacific a number of years ago.

Evidence of the strength of construction is everywhere. We have photographed that, too, in the last several days and will be posting pictures soon in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 26. Extradition Sought to Try American in Anguilla

Connecticut resident Scott Hapgood was allowed to return home to Connecticut from Anguilla after he reportedly had killed a hotel handyman who he said had pulled a knife on him at a resort.

The island has since issued an arrest warrant for Hapgood and is attempting to get him extradited back to Anguilla, where he refused to return for a hearing early last week.

This could turn into a major diplomatic confrontation between the United Kingdom and the United States. Here are [details](#).

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## 27. French Side Govt. Officials To Stand Trial in Irma Case

Some top French side government officials are about to stand trial for actions they took quickly after hurricane Irma

to help with the recovery efforts.

Government spokespersons are saying that the officials circumvented normal procedures to give favoritism to third parties in the wake of the record-breaking storm.

But Daniel Gibbes, Frenchside president, said in a broadcast commentary that there was not time to follow normal procedures and he did what he had to do to get people fed and cared for under dire emergency circumstances. Here is [his statement](#) and here is the story about the [pending trial](#).

Our 2 cents: a finding of guilty here would be a monumental miscarriage of justice....

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## 28. Make Thanksgiving Reservations NOW

Thanksgiving is late this year and the island is already getting significantly busy. Regular visitors are arriving and others — not interested in tolerating early season cold snaps — are getting on airplanes and coming down here in significant numbers. Bottom line, make Thanksgiving day dinner reservations now. Our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) will be posting all the information we have about restaurants that plan to serve Thanksgiving dinner. As always, those serving it will start offering it at lunch and go right through the evening.

Again, visit our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) for the latest on Thanksgiving and "everything SXM."

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## 29. Percy Rankin, Buju Banton Play in SXM

Very well known Reggae entertainers Percy Rankin and Buju Banton have had separate recent show dates here in SXM. In fact, Percy Rankin appears regularly at the Soggy Dollar Bar behind Vesna Taverna in Simpson Bay, just north of the drawbridge.

As soon as we hear about notable performances on the island we will now be publishing the information both here in *SXM Weekly News* and in our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#).

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## 30. Make Your Own Perfume / Cologne at Tijon Parfumerie

SXM's only Parfumerie is the Tijon Parfumerie opposite SPIGA restaurant at the northern end of Boulevard to Grand Case where it intersects Route De L'Esperance. Not only do they have perfumes created right here on SXM, they also offer many courses enabling *you* to create your own perfumes in a total of less than two highly pleasurable hours — a fascinating experience you'll remember always.

I never pictured myself as someone who could or would make perfume, but that's exactly what I did a couple of years ago at Tijon. I loved the result and have reordered it several times from Tijon, which has the capability of taking orders by phone or email and shipping them directly to your home or making them available for pickup on the island. I love the fragrance I created, which I named Orient Sunrise. For more information, see [www.tijon.com](http://www.tijon.com). Don't put this off: it's as much fun for guys as it is for women and it's also great for groups of friends or other family members. The schedule fills quickly, so book your perfume making lesson and session as far in advance of your trip as possible.

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## 31. Winter, Summer, Fall, Spring at Azure Hotel on SB Beach

If you're looking for a small, intimate hotel right on Simpson Bay beach that's family owned and operated — for a vacation not only this winter, but also next spring, summer, or next fall, Azure Hotel and Art Studio owned by Fawnette and Michal Angelides is a great choice.

For much more information, Please see [www.AzurehotelSXM.com](http://www.AzurehotelSXM.com). We've been there & highly recommend it.

## 32. Where Are They Now?

*This is the fifth in a series of articles about where the people are who served you in the past at extremely popular SXM restaurants. If you've been going to SXM for any length of time — or, in fact, if you're an ex-pat now living there — you will find interesting information right here. Since they moved on from their original restaurants, many SXM restaurateurs and restaurant employees have stayed in the business on the island. In this series, we'll tell you where some of them are and where you can get those entrees you thought you'd never taste again.*

**Fish Pot Restaurant in Grand Case** (along with the nearby Tastevan) for years were regarded as that seaside village's top gourmet restaurants. The general manager at fish pot was a guy named Yannick, someone who knew his stuff and turned out consistently extraordinary dishes.

Meanwhile, a vivacious young lady named Vesna, who later would start working at a little restaurant at the old Atlantis casino called **Sugarcane Café, visited SXM on vacation** from Macedonia. Vesna caught Yannick's eye, they certainly had a common interest in culinary, and Yannick followed Vesna halfway around the world to express the fact that he was serious .... Ultimately, they got married and started a restaurant in Simpson Bay initially called the Bagel house on the western side of Airport Road north of the Simpson Bay drawbridge.

The restaurant was too small and the name was too limiting, so after a few years they moved to their current location across the street and changed the name of the restaurant to Vesna Taverna.

It still serves bagels in the morning and at lunch — if you want them, but also complete American breakfasts which are innovative and delicious, great sandwiches, smoothies, and some Greek specialties at lunch (Vesna is half Greek and half Macedonian), and they are open from Tuesday through Saturday night for dinner. One night there are Greek specialties which you can read about on their website, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com).

Vesna and Yannick travel to Paris during their annual closing, just concluded, to expand even further the spectrum of their culinary knowledge — a spectrum which widens further every year to the great benefit of their loyal clients.

Watch for the next article in this series next week.

**If you have suggestions for future articles, please email them to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject where are they now.**

**Featured so far in this series:**

Next: L'Alabama

Vesna **Sunshine Cafe** and Yannick **Fish Pot** (article #5)

Livio Bergamasco / **Da Livio** (article #4)

Gray & Jason & "Lulu" / **Busby's / Daniel's** (article #3)

David Foini, **La Raviolina / La Gondola** / iZi (article #2)

Al & Lillian Wathey, **Turtle Pier / Nowhere Special** (article #1)

## 33. Restaurant of the Week: Spiga

Just when you think it's impossible for a great restaurant to get even better, it happens — especially if the name of that restaurant is SPIGA and it's located in Grand Case.

Grand Case — which in the past has called itself the culinary capital of the Caribbean — has a number of great restaurants, though Simpson Bay now and Porto Cupecoy also offer incredible dining. But **Spiga is certainly now the best restaurant of any kind in Grand Case**, in our humble opinion, and easily one of the best three restaurants on the island.

In addition to designing great menu items in concert with her husband chef Ciro Russo, restaurant co-owner Lara Russo has a flair for interior design and tends to execute that flair during their annual closing, which concluded a few weeks ago. Their bar — which has some very interesting lighting — has now been moved to their second Dining Room, near the kitchen, a great spot for family and business parties and celebrations.

But restaurants are all about food, and that of course is the subject of this **restaurant of the week** selection. Spiga offers flat out extraordinary Italian fine dining. A special when we were there was a pesto salmon filet with Brussels Sprouts, which Ilene thoroughly enjoyed. I had their new presentation of Filet Mignon which was equally



extraordinary. The new presentation adds different flavors and accompaniments and makes this meal even better than before, which I thought was impossible. Their filet mignon remains the best I've tasted anywhere on the island or, for that matter anywhere else. Visit Spiga early in your trip because you will unquestionably want to return later: Lara and Ciro have something incredibly special here. Just go -- reservations strongly recommended.

### Here are recently featured SXM restaurants:

**Spiga**, [www.spiga-sxm.com](http://www.spiga-sxm.com) (featured 11/18/19) New bar, great staff, service, and phenomenal food. Everything is great, appetizers are out of this world. Not to be missed.

**Mama Pizza**, Porto Cupecoy (featured 11/11/19) Excellent pizza, and sizeable portions / reasonable prices on numerous other Italian specialties. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

**Vesna Taverna**, [www.vesnataverna.com](http://www.vesnataverna.com) (featured 10/28/19). Now open every day for through B/L; dinner is offered Wednesday through Sunday.

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.izirestaurant.com](http://www.izirestaurant.com) (featured 10/14/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

**Isola** next to Hollywood Casino in Simpson Bay Resort, 7/13/19. 100% redesigned, inside and out, floor to ceiling and everything inside. Just go.

**Pineapple Pete**, [www.pineapplepete.com](http://www.pineapplepete.com) (featured 7/8/19) Known for great lobster Thermidor and lots, lots more. Generous portions, reasonable prices. Huge variety. Games for kids.

**Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant (formerly Sushiitto) (7/8/19)** is the new name of Sushiitto, now relocated next door to Pineapple Pete in Simpson bay. Essentially the same menu, same staff, same great food/service.

**Mario Bistro** [www.mariobistrot.com/en/](http://www.mariobistrot.com/en/) 6/24/19 Mario's Bistro is one of the most spectacular culinary experiences you'll ever have. Go. Phenomenal dining. On the plaza at Porto Cupecoy, Cupecoy Beach.

**Mandarin Pan Asian, Port de Plaisance** (featured 6/10/19) Excellent Pan-Asian dining including Japanese, Thai, and Chinese. Nice setting near the casino at Port de Plaisance.

**Emilio's** at Emilio Wilson Estate (featured 4/21/19) is as stupendous as it ever was, with spectacular dining in an equally spectacular restored building on the Emilio Wilson Estate. Ask to see the wine cellar and the museum. Open for lunch and dinner: not to be missed.

**Freedom Fighters ITAL SHACK Rasta Restaurant**, [www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant](http://www.sxmfreedomfighters.com/restaurant) 4/15/19. Just go....

**Avantika Thai** [www.avantikasxm.com](http://www.avantikasxm.com) (featured 4/8/19) Avantika is wonderful; SXM's best Thai.

**IZI Ristorante Italiano**, [www.iziristoranteitaliano.com](http://www.iziristoranteitaliano.com) (featured 3/11/19). Open for lunch and dinner except Monday, when they're closed. Great food from one of SXM's very best restaurants. Fun atmosphere, too.

**Topper's** <http://www.sxmtoppers.com/> (featured 1/28/19) One of SXM's oldest and busiest restaurants, Breakfast, lunch, dinner, and late dining. Open morning until late night. Sports on TV. Karaoke some nights.

**Dany & John's Cupecoy Beach Bar** (on Cupecoy beach); follow the road toward Shore Pointe and turn near Shore Pointe to get there. (Featured 1/20/2019) Parking, drinks, chairs and umbrellas, lolo-type food, and an all-over tan. What could possibly be better?

**La Patrona, Simpson Bay Resort** (featured 12/30/18) La Patrona is SXM's only truly authentic Mexican restaurant. Highly recommended: great food, great service, not to be missed.

**SkipJack's SXM**, <http://www.skipjacks-sxm.com/> (featured 12/24/18) SkipJack's triumphantly reopened with an entirely new dining deck late in January, 2019. Great place - go!

**Enigma C3 luxury Catamaran**, [www.sailstmaarten.com](http://www.sailstmaarten.com) (featured 8/7/17). Neil's new boat is as big as Celine Too was and it has now entered service. Neil is known for amazing cooking on board his boats.

**Domino's Pizza** <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dominos-Pizza-St-Maarten/95635717338> (featured 9/16) Open.

**The Hideaway**, <http://www.lavistaresort.com/restaurant.html> (featured 10/31/16) Open; contact the restaurant for details and reservations. Updated 3/2/18.

**Melange International Grill** (featured 2/20/17) Reopened.

**Papagayo**, <http://www.cluborient.com/papagayo.php> (featured 10/17/16) Club Orient was wrecked by Irma; rebuilding is planned. ETA not yet known.

**St. Maarten Yacht Club, at the Dutch Side Drawbridge** Reopened.

**Jimbo's**, [www.jimboscafe.com](http://www.jimboscafe.com) (featured 6/12/17) Reopened.

**Taloula Mango** <http://www.taloulamango.com/> (featured 4/20/15) Reopened.

**You will find hundreds more restaurants from both the Dutch Side and French Side listed in the Files area of our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#).** Our thanks to our Admin there, Contessa Aiello, who edited the restaurant entries on that site.

## 34. Getting SXM Questions Answered Quickly

Regardless of what time it is, people are always interacting with our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — asking

questions, answering questions, getting answers or suggestions or recommendations from other people, posting thousands of pictures, etc.

With almost 24,000 participating members (more than twice that including their partners and friends), there's just about always a number of people around to answer any question or to offer recommendations. *You will also find some of the best businesses on the island occasionally posting information about what they offer, too — jewelers, car rentals, points of accommodation, restaurants, pharmacists, swimsuit retailers, and others.* The best place to get your questions answered quickly is our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) -- check it out.

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## 35. Please Help Stop the Scourge of Brain Tumors...

*Jeff Berger writes:*

Our son Scott Berger has had two brain tumors. He's married with two kids and understandably his passion and ours is supporting the efforts of the National Brain Tumor Society (NBTS) in finding the cause of brain tumors, improving diagnostic tools, advancing treatment modalities, patient care, and more.

Scott in a few weeks will once again be active in the Brain Tumor Walk where he lives, in the Phoenix area. Please see more in [his post for the NBTS](#) and please help in any way you can. Every family affected by brain tumors will thank you - us especially! -*Jeff & Ilene*

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## 36. Here's Your Invitation to the SkyMed Member Appreciation Luncheon 1/3

If you are either a SkyMed member or are interested in learning more about SkyMed, you are invited to our first SKYMED MEMBER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON in SXM on January 3. Please see details here; registration is required: [www.skymed.com/weappreciateyou](http://www.skymed.com/weappreciateyou)

Bring friends who should also hear this information, but ALL must be preregistered. Looking forward to seeing you there! -- Jeff Berger

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## 37. Want to See Back Issues of SXM Weekly News? Here's How

Our *SXM Weekly News* PDF archives enable you to download any issue of Weekly News published since Spring 2014, including our amazing *2018 April Fools' Day parody* and many Special Editions.

Check it out [here](#). It has now been thoroughly updated. Each week's newsletter is being added just hours after mailing of that issue to its subscribers completes (Monday).

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## 38. Major SkyMed Promo Now Underway

A major promo continues on SkyMed memberships. Not only are all multiyear SkyMed memberships heavily discounted for JMB members, but *when you buy a new multiyear SkyMed membership through us or upgrade your annual SkyMed membership bought from us to a multiyear membership, we will extend your JMB membership on us for the number of years you buy SkyMed.*

Example: Upgrade to or buy a new five-year SkyMed membership through us, and we give you a free five-year extension of your existing JMB Website Supporters membership. All you need to do is forward us a copy of the acknowledgement you receive from SkyMed after you buy new or upgrade through us. For info, see [skymed.com/jmb](http://skymed.com/jmb) (that new website goes live soon), but to qualify for these bonuses, you must buy by phoning us at (508) 747-8281 or email Jeff at [jeff@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jeff@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed. Give us your phone number and time zone and we'll return your call as quickly as we can. Available exclusively to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats.

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## 39. Ensure Best SkyMed Deal - Jeff Berger / SkyMed.com/jmb

Our new SkyMed website is [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), now live; please bookmark that and not any other site.

**When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone; that way we get credit.** It takes about 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently; that way we do get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you.

SkyMed inquiries only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time. Thank you. Customer stories are below.

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## 40. Going Somewhere 1/18 or Later? Beat SkyMed's 90-day Exclusion of Pre-Existing Conditions by Buying Guaranteed Renewable Annual Protection Now, Only About \$1.35/day

**SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. Without it, an emergency medical evacuation by air ambulance will cost you from \$35,000 to \$50,000 or more, sometimes much more, payable in cash in advance. Worse, you must get it before you need it - just like fire insurance.**

**Buy a new SkyMed multiyear five-year membership from us now by phoning us at 508-747-8281 (at about \$1.35/day price guaranteed for 10 years when we take your application by phone) and we'll give you a 10 year new or renewal JMB Website Supporters membership on us. All you need to do is email us a copy of your welcome letter from SkyMed after approval to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject SkyMed.**

Of course we'll be happy to answer your questions and we can tell you about everything SkyMed offers. Totally up to you what type of coverage you select. Much more info about SkyMed is in the next story.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits [here](#).

**By buying guaranteed renewable annual or multiyear protection now at only about \$1.35/day, pre-existing conditions will be covered in full after a brief 90-day waiting period. SkyMed protects you in the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global protection is available as well. For answers to your questions, call us today at 508-747-8281.**

See next story for much more on SkyMed. Offer ends soon.

Again, our new SkyMed website is [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb); please be sure you bookmark that and not any other site. Thank you.

Customer stories are below.

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## 41. \*\*\*\*\*SkyMed Customer Stories\*\*\*\*\* Protect Against Pricy Emergency Medical Evacuations by Getting SkyMed:

**Emergency medical evacuations are payable in cash in advance and often cost upwards of \$45,000 -- unless you have a SkyMed membership. SkyMed Takes You Home® to doctors and hospitals you know and trust,**

**and where your health insurance actually works. It's available to Americans and Canadians and to X-Pats of both countries, taking them home from throughout the USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available covering every country around the world except those on the U. S. State Department watch list. SkyMed makes all medical evacuation arrangements and pays for them directly...you just pay for your SkyMed membership.**

**Here are examples of SkyMed in action:**

**On a recent Thursday at Mullet Bay Beach**, a woman at the edge of the water fell and accidentally knocked down her friend, standing close by. The friend felt pain in her leg as she got up, went to a hospital, and was told she had a "soft tissue injury" and should relax in the sun. Pain continued. Next day she went to the Maho Clinic for another opinion since she couldn't put any weight on the leg without pain. The doctor there sent her to the French Side for a new x-ray. That diagnosis came back - broken leg and she had to be medically evacuated back to the US for surgery. A few days before, the woman had bought short-term SkyMed medevac protection for her short trip to SXM. Cost, under \$100. She was sent home by jet by SkyMed. The charge for the jet: \$0. Without SkyMed, had she needed a medevac jet, the \$26,000 (approx.) price of that jet home would have had to be paid in cash in advance; with SkyMed she was home and in the hospital of her choice the next day for \$0 out-of-pocket.

**Mary Beth and her partner Don** were vacationing in SXM when Don fell and broke his hip -- only about a month after they had bought SkyMed. SkyMed flew them home on a medevac jet for the hospital care he needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: over \$35,000.

**An MD from Florida** who always visits SXM was on a cruise vacation to the Greek Islands with his wife when he broke his femur aboard the ship. He was rushed to the hospital in Corfu but called SkyMed *which arranged and paid for* an emergency medevac flight to Athens for urgent surgery. A few days later SkyMed evacuated him again, with an excellent male nurse, all the way home to Florida, where an ambulance took him home for recovery. Required flight cost to the patient: \$0. Savings: huge.

**A Summer trip ended in disaster when a child visiting her grandmother** in Grand Case was bitten in the head by the grandmother's bulldog, imperiling the girl's eyesight. She was flown to Miami in a medical evacuation jet for emergency eye surgery that saved her sight. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

**A woman from Virginia** shopped at an island grocer and headed back to her car carrying two bags of groceries. She tripped and fell on a curb and knew at once she had fractured her hip. After being stabilized locally, she was flown home on a medical evacuation jet from SkyMed where she had the surgery she needed. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

**Two men were riding their horses on a hill in Cay Bay** when a car backfiring spooked one of the horses, which threw its rider. The other rider got off his horse to check his companion when the car again backfired, spooking the horse again which led it to kick its dismounted driver in the head, luckily causing "only" a severely dislocated jaw. The local hospital had no ability to solve that problem so the victim was airlifted by SkyMed back to Pennsylvania for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

**A member of the clergy** fell down cement stairs and broke her leg. She too was airlifted home by SkyMed for surgery. Flight cost to the patient: \$0.

**Not all trips end well: anything can happen when you travel. Being a member of SkyMed was the common thread in all these cases.** *SkyMed takes its members home, usually in a private, ICU-equivalent medical evacuation jet -- home to doctors and hospitals the patient knows and trusts -- and home where their health insurance works.* That's just one of up to 18 benefits received by SkyMed members for not much more than \$1.30/day for annual or multiyear memberships.

All this is why we always recommend SkyMed. Call Jeff Berger weekdays at 508-747-8281 and leave your name, phone number, and time zone. Jeff will call back at a mutually convenient time and answer all your questions. He can also sign you up by phone in about 10 minutes. You're eligible to apply regardless of your age or health if you are a U.S. or Canadian citizen or an American or Canadian ExPat living in SXM or certain other countries.

**Nobody is immune: anything can happen anywhere.** Do it today. To learn more, visit [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), our new SkyMed site, going live shortly.. JMB members get big discounts off SkyMed's regular pricing: see the story about JMB Website Supporters in this section.

**More Info on SkyMed...**

On its guaranteed renewable annual and multiyear memberships, SkyMed has a 90-day waiting period for coverage of pre-existing conditions -- everything else is covered in full as soon as your SkyMed membership has been approved, per SkyMed's member services agreement.

If you're traveling more than three months into the future, you can beat that one-time 90-day pre-existing conditions exclusion by joining today. That way the 90-day exclusion period will be over by the time you travel -- so you're covered in full, including pre-existing conditions, at that time.

SkyMed Takes You Home® when you become critically ill or injured when traveling. There is no age limit to apply, and once you're enrolled you can renew without further medical checks regardless of your attained age or your health at the time of renewal. Without SkyMed, if you need an Emergency Medical Evacuation, you must pay for it in cash, in advance. No cash, no evacuation. And the cost without SkyMed can be astronomical. Why risk that?

By contrast, if you're a SkyMed member, you call SkyMed directly and they make all the arrangements for all the services they provide. SkyMed Takes You Home -- what else matters?

And there is *no age limit to apply*. Call us at 508-747-8281 and ask for Jeff; he'll answer your questions and can take your application by phone, usually in under 10 minutes.

It's available to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats from both countries. Short-term and annual coverage includes the USA (all 50 states), Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean including Cuba. Global coverage is available on annual memberships for a \$99 additional yearly fee, but global coverage is standard on multiyear SkyMed Ultimate memberships, which are both SkyMed's best and its least expensive medevac memberships.

You'll find an overview of all key SkyMed Features & Benefits here:  
<http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxmweekly.../SkyMedServices.pdf>

Got questions? Call us daytimes (EDT) at 508-747-8281. Again, we can answer your questions and take your application by phone in about 10 minutes. We can set up evening phone appointments too. It's like fire insurance -- get it before you need it.

*When you're ready to sign up for SkyMed, be sure to call us and let us take your application by phone.* It takes under 10 minutes, and we submit it electronically. We know what SkyMed is looking for and we can make sure you submit it efficiently; that way we also get credit for the purchase, which in a small way helps fund this newsletter and everything else we do for you. SkyMed calls only can be received at 508-747-8281 during regular office hours, Eastern time.. Thank you.

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**Get The Current Low Price**  
**on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership**  
**and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.**  
**That's a 10-year price guarantee.**  
**More benefits... same price.**

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See [skymed.com/jmb](http://skymed.com/jmb). SkyMed is the Principal Sponsor of JMB SXM programs.

**See the rundown of all SkyMed Features & Benefits**

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## **42. Are You Military?**

If you're U. S. Military with a DD214, you're able to get a Platinum-Status Military JMB Membership for \$16.99/year,

the lowest we ever charge anyone. You get instant Platinum Status which is permanent as long as you're a JMB member plus 300+ SXM discounts and other benefits. All you do is pay for four years to start and renew in four-year increments (\$67.96). Nobody else pays so little -- our small way of expressing how grateful we all are for your service.

Visit [everythingstxm.com](http://everythingstxm.com) and click the page curl to sign up for your JMB military membership. We'll also need a DD214 with your SS# obliterated for security. We'll be delighted to welcome you.

## 43. Less Money, More Benefits, Ten Year Price Guarantee on SkyMed Ultimate

**Get The Current Low Price**  
**on SkyMed's Best 5-Year Ultimate Membership**  
**and keep the current low price on your first 5-yr. renewal.**  
**That's a 10-year price guarantee.**  
**More benefits... same price.**

Ask Jeff for details -- call him at 508-747-8281 (SkyMed calls only, reg. hours Eastern time.) More info? See [www.skymed.com/jmb](http://www.skymed.com/jmb), our new site, going live shortly.

## 44. Please Patronize JMB Sponsors (Updated 11/17/19)

### **SXM Immigration - Relocation / "Papers" Consulting Companies**

[Bright Path](#) is already posting on our [Everything St. Maarten / St. Martin / SXM Facebook Group](#)

### **AMUSEMENTS**

[Island Pedals Beer Cycle](#) (Philipsburg)

### **BOAT TOURS**

**Celine Charters (Enigma)**

### **CAR RENTALS:**

[Leisure Car Rental](#)

[Sax Car Rental](#)

[Tropical-Tropicana Car Rental](#)

**Exclusive Car Rental** (new)

### **CUBAN CIGARS:**

[Cigar Mack](#)

[SXM Cigars](#)

## **EMERGENCY MEDICAL EVACUATION MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS:**

**[SkyMed International](#)** (Covers the entire USA, Canada, Mexico, Bermuda, the Bahamas, and all the nations of the Caribbean. Global coverage available. Sold only to Americans, Canadians, and X-Pats living in these countries.)

## **SWIMWEAR:**

**Endless Summer Swimwear (New!)**

## **JEWELERS:**

**[Zhaveri Jewelers](#)** in Philipsburg.

**[Caribbean Gems](#)**

**Majesty Jewelers**

**[Ray's Jewelers](#)**

**[Alpha Jewels](#)**

**Art of Time**

**Artistic Jewelers**

**Oro Diamante**

## **REAL ESTATE COMPANIES:**

**[Island Real Estate Team](#)** is widely regarded as SXM's top real estate organization. A JMB Sponsor, they offer both residential and commercial real estate in every price range. Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles what you seek: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

**Century 21 St. Maarten** (just joined)

**Sunshine Properties** (new)

## **RESORTS:**

**Belair Beach Hotel**

**Simpson Bay Resort**

**Azure Hotel & Art Studio**

**Baker's Suites**

## **RESTAURANTS & BARS**

**[IZI](#)**

**[SPIGA](#)**

**[VESNA TAVERNA](#)**

**ISOLA**

**Frenchy Ludo's**

**SNOOPY'S**

**Mandarin Asian Bistro (Port de Plaisance)**

**Melange (Port de Plaisance)**

**Pelican Bistro**

**Soggy Dollar Bar**

**Sale and Pepe**

**LA PATRONA (Simpson Bay Resort)**

**MARIO'S BISTRO (Porto Cupecoy)**

**Pineapple Pete Restaurant**

**Wasabi Charlie Japanese Restaurant**

**Emilio's (NEW)**

**Taloula's Blue Bitch Bar (NEW)**

**Nowhere Special (NEW)**

**VILLA RENTAL COMPANIES:**

If you're interested in making a villa reservation (doing it with close friends can be fun and more economical than you'd imagine), contact our top recommended Villa rental/sale partners at [Island Real Estate Team](#). Call the number that follows and ask to speak with the agent who handles villa rentals: 1 721 520 7284. Please let the agent know that you're interested in a rental and you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*. Hundreds of villas are now online.

[Jennifer's Vacation Villas](#) has also joined us as a villa rental partner. *Jennifer's Vacation Villas* is a licensed management, real estate and villa rental company specializing in the rental of private villas and condos on both French and Dutch St. Maarten. Its proprietor, Jennifer, is a New Yorker who has been residing in St. Maarten for 40 years and whose goal is to provide guests with personal attention and to ensure that their vacations are memorable. Jennifer's Vacation Villas also does Weddings, Private Events, and any additional services including massages, boat trips, and private catering. Their aim is to make your vacation stay as comfortable, accommodating, and easy going as possible. Call 1 (721) 544-3107 | +1 (631) 546-7345. When you contact them, please tell them you were referred by Jeff Berger's *Everything SXM Facebook Group*.

**Candie Billant** does condo and villa rentals and sales. You will find her at [blueparadiserealty.com](http://blueparadiserealty.com).

**Sunshine Properties** has just joined us.

Updated 11/17/19

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Deserves a Marketing-Centric, Customer-Focused  
Website That Works.**

**That's what we do:**

**[www.websitesthatworkusa.com](http://www.websitesthatworkusa.com)**



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***a unit of JMB Communications.***

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## **45. SXM Business Owners: How To Increase Foot & Web Traffic**

SXM Weekly News, our [everythingSXM.com](http://everythingSXM.com) website and its Hurricane Center, and our [Everything SXM Facebook Group](#) — along with our many Vacation Giveaways and hundreds of benefits of JMB Website Supporters membership — are all made possible through our partnerships with our JMB Website Supporters members and our Sponsors.

Our Sponsorships enable SXM businesses to present their products or services to a huge, responsive audience of tourists from around the world, but primarily the USA and Canada. (Our site is based in the U. S. and is focused on the needs of tourists traveling to SXM.) If you own an SXM business and want to look into and take advantage of this unique marketing opportunity, please email [susank@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:susank@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject "JMB Sponsorships". We'll get complete information to you quickly. Winter is here and with it, plenty of opportunity to bring more tourists into your business not only in the short term, but especially as tourist business increases throughout this year and into 2020. Contact us today for more information.

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**St. Maarten / St. Martin Homes, Villas, Businesses, Commercial Properties, and Residential Properties for Sale (NEW):**

**[Click to access our recommended real estate agent, Arun Jagtiani, featured on HGTV.](#)**

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### **Rent Out or Sell Your Timeshare (both SXM and Worldwide) -- Frequently Updated**

JMB members can run up to 10 free ads on our website per 12-month period to rent out or sell St. Maarten / St. Martin timeshare weeks they own -- or any timeshares, anywhere worldwide. If you're not a member, learn more about membership here: [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about\\_sxm/paypal.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/about_sxm/paypal.shtml) .

#### **Want to rent or buy a week?**

**\*2017 St. Maarten / St. Martin Timeshare Weeks For Rent or Sale\* are posted at [http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare\\_rent\\_sale/index.shtml](http://everythingxsm.com/sxm/timeshare_rent_sale/index.shtml) Listings are now updated every few weekdays. Ads are free (no commission) but are accepted from JMB Website Supporters members only.**

#### **SECTION 5: For Members Only**

A. **Where to Get Member Info:** [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret)

B. **Password Recovery Info:** Your username is the email address you have registered with JMB Website Supporters. If you forget your password, click "forgot / change password" in the orange login box near the masthead at [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com). To change your password, click that same link.

C. **How To Submit Rental or Sale Ads or Update the Price in an Ad:** See [www.everythingsxm.com/secret](http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret). Your username and password are required.

#### **SECTION 6: Background Information for Travelers (For New Readers) Updated 7/2017**

See [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com).

## About Email Address Changes / How To Unsubscribe (Updated 4/17/17)

To unsubscribe, go here: [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com). You **CAN NOT** unsubscribe either by replying to this email or, if you are an AOL user, by clicking the \*spam\* button on AOL.

To change your email address, visit [www.sxmweeklynews.com](http://www.sxmweeklynews.com); unsubscribe your old email address and subscribe your new one. *JMB Website Supporters members should notify Membership Services of the new email address for continued Secret Site access.*

## Get Your Own Free Copy Of St. Maarten and St. Martin Weekly News:

<http://www.everythingsxm.com/cgi-bin/dada/mail.cgi?>

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Our email headers also contain subscribe / unsubscribe / address change links.

## Contact Us (Revised 5/25/18)

All member discounts and benefits are explained in detail on the members-only \*secret\* website, <http://www.everythingsxm.com/secret> . If you're a JMB Website Supporters member and have a question not answered there, contact [support@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:support@jmbcommunications.com)

NON-members who wish to contact us should write to [jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com](mailto:jmbweb@jmbcommunications.com) with the subject \*Free Newsletter Recipient,\* but due to the huge volume of mail received, we may not respond individually.

Our main St. Maarten / St. Martin website: [www.everythingsxm.com](http://www.everythingsxm.com) .

**Privacy Policy** [http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy\\_policy/index.shtml](http://www.everythingsxm.com/sxm/privacy_policy/index.shtml) (Updated 5/25/18)

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